AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of treating chronic pain in a patient in need of such treatment, which method comprises:

administering to the patient a first buprenorphine-containing transdermal dosage form for a first dosing period that is no longer than 5 days;

administering to the patient a second buprenorphine-containing transdermal dosage form for a second dosing period that is no longer than 5 days, wherein the second dosage form comprises the same dosage of buprenorphine as, or a greater dosage of buprenorphine than, the first dosage form; and

administering to the patient a third buprenorphine-containing transdermal dosage form for a third dosing period, wherein the third dosage form comprises a greater dosage of buprenorphine than the second dosage form.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first, second, and third transdermal dosage forms contain the amounts of buprenorphine as set forth in a row of the following table:

First (mg)	Second (mg)	Third (mg)
5	5	10
5	5	20
5	5	30
5	10	20
5	10	30
5	10	40
5	20	40
5	30	40
10	10	20
10	10	30
10	10	40
10	20	30

10	20	40
10	30	40
20	20	30
20	30	40

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first dosing period is at least 2 days.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second dosing period is at least 2 days.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the third dosing period is at least 2 days.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first dosing period is no longer than 4 days.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first dosing period is 3 days.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second dosage period is no longer than 4 days.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second dosage period is 3 days.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first dosage form comprises 5 mg of buprenorphine.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the second dosage form comprises 10 mg of buprenorphine.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the third dosage form comprises 20 mg of buprenorphine.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the third dosage form comprises 30 mg of buprenorphine.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the third dosage form comprises 40 mg of buprenorphine.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising administering a fourth buprenorphine-containing transdermal dosage form for a fourth dosing period at least once after the third dosing period.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the fourth dosing period is 2 days.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the fourth dosage form comprises 30 or 40 mg of buprenorphine.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the patient is an elderly patient.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the patient is an elderly hypertensive patient.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the patient is a pediatric patient.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the pediatric patient suffers from a condition selected from the group consisting of scoliosis, cerebral palsy, juvenile arthritis, cancer and postoperative pain.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the chronic pain is pain expected to last for at least one week.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the patient is suffering from at least one of osteoarthritis, chronic lower back pain, postoperative pain, or pain associated with recovery from extensive trauma.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first dosage form comprises up to 5 mg of buprenorphine, the first dosing period is up to 3 days, the second dosage form comprises up to 5 mg of buprenorphine, the second dosing period is up to 3 days; the third dosage form comprises up to 20 mg of buprenorphine, and the third dosing period at least about 7 days.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the transdermal dosage form is selected from the group consisting of a topical gel, a lotion, an ointment, ~~a transmucosal system, a transmucosal device,~~ and an iontophoretic delivery system.

26. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method decreases the systolic blood pressure of the patient by at least 20 mmHg, or the diastolic blood pressure by at least 10 mmHg.

27. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method decreases the systolic blood pressure of the patient by at least 20 mmHg, and the diastolic blood pressure by at least 10 mmHg.

28. (Original) A method of treating chronic pain in a patient in need of such treatment, which method comprises administering to the patient a first, a second, and a third transdermal dosage form of buprenorphine,

wherein the third dosage form comprises a higher dosage of buprenorphine than the first and second dosage forms, and

wherein the method does not increase the incidence of an adverse event selected from nausea, vomiting, and headache as compared to only administering the same dosage of buprenorphine as the third dosage form.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the method does not induce orthostatic hypertension or syncope.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the first dosage form comprises no more than 5 mg, the second dosage form comprises no more than 10 mg buprenorphine and is administered for a dosing period of three days, and the third dosage form comprises at least 20 mg buprenorphine and is administered for a dosing period of at least 2 days.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the first dosage form comprises no more than 10 mg buprenorphine, the second dosage form comprises no more than 20 mg buprenorphine and is administered for three days, and the third dosage form comprises at least 30 mg buprenorphine and is administered for at least 2 days.

32. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the first dosage form comprises no more than 20 mg buprenorphine, the second dosage form comprises no more than 30 mg buprenorphine and is administered for three days, and the third dosage form comprises 40 mg buprenorphine and is administered for at least 2 days.

33. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the patient is an elderly patient.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the patient is an elderly hypertensive patient.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the patient is taking thiazide diuretics for treatment of hypertension.

36. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the method decreases the systolic blood pressure of the patient by at least 20 mmHg, or the diastolic blood pressure by at least 10 mmHg.

37. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the method decreases the systolic blood pressure of the patient by at least 20 mmHg, and the diastolic blood pressure by at least 10 mmHg.

38. (Original) A method of treating chronic pain in a patient in need of such treatment, which method comprises:

administering to the patient a first buprenorphine-containing transdermal dosage form for a first dosing period that is no more than 5 days;

administering to the patient a second buprenorphine-containing transdermal dosage form for a second dosing period, wherein the second dosage form comprises the same dosage of buprenorphine as, or a greater dosage of buprenorphine than, the first dosage form; and

administering to the patient a third buprenorphine-containing transdermal dosage form for a third dosing period, wherein the third dosage form comprises a greater dosage of buprenorphine than the second dosage form,

wherein the dosing regimen results in a plasma buprenorphine profile wherein

(a) the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration

24 hours after administration of the first dosage form is between 10-100 pg/ml;

(b) the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration 72 hours after administration of the first dosage form is between 25-200 pg/ml;

(c) the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration 144 hours after administration of the first dosage form is between 100-250 pg/ml; and

(d) the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration 168 hours after administration of the first dosage form is between 400-1000 pg/ml.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein

(a) the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration 24 hours after administration is between 20-50 pg/ml;

(b) the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration 72 hours after administration is between 40-100 pg/ml;

(c) the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration 144 hours after administration is between 150-200 pg/ml; and

(d) the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration 168 hours after administration is at least 500 pg/ml.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38 wherein the plasma profile is substantially similar to ~~that depicted in Figure 1~~ the plasma profile represented by Figure 2:

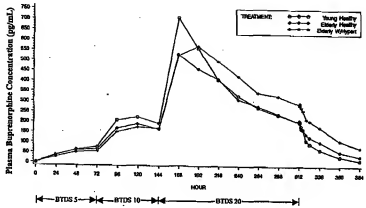

FIGURE 2

41. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein the patient is elderly.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein the patient has hypertension.

43. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the transdermal dosage form is selected from the group consisting of transdermal dosage article and transdermal dosage composition.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein the transdermal dosage article is a diffusion-driven transdermal system.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the transdermal dosage composition is selected from the group consisting of a topical gel, a lotion, an ointment, ~~a transmucosal system, a transmucosal device,~~ and an iontophoretic delivery system.

46. (New) A method of treating chronic pain in a patient in need of such treatment, which method comprises:

administering to the patient a first buprenorphine-containing transmucosal dosage form for a first dosing period that is no more than 5 days;

administering to the patient a second buprenorphine-containing transmucosal dosage form for a second dosing period, wherein the second dosage form comprises the same dosage of buprenorphine as, or a greater dosage of buprenorphine than, the first dosage form; and

administering to the patient a third buprenorphine-containing transmucosal dosage form for a third dosing period, wherein the third dosage form comprises a greater dosage of buprenorphine than the second dosage form,

wherein the dosing regimen results in a plasma buprenorphine profile wherein

(a) the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration 24 hours after administration of the first dosage form is between 10-100 pg/ml;

(b) the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration 72 hours after administration of the first dosage form is between 25-200 pg/ml;

(c) the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration 144 hours after administration of the first dosage form is between 100-250 pg/ml; and

(d) the mean plasma buprenorphine concentration 168 hours after administration of the first dosage form is between 400-1000 pg/ml.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the transmucosal dosage form is selected from the group consisting of a transmucosal dosage article and a transmucosal dosage composition.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the transdermal dosage composition is selected from the group consisting of a transmucosal system, and a transmucosal device.